



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ's Laboratory Receives National Accreditation

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently received notification that the department's laboratory has been accredited by National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

This certification demonstrates that the laboratory meets the most current and stringent standards set for environmental laboratories throughout the US. It also guarantees that data from the laboratory meets national EPA requirements.

"This accreditation certifies that the DEQ lab produces quality data," said DEQ Laboratory Services Administrator Melvin Mitchell. "Continued inspection by national accreditation authorities will ensure that the quality of the data will be at the highest possible level."

In 2005, DEQ laboratory staff analyzed more than 87,000 samples. This year, to date more than 134,000 samples have been analyzed. The 47,000 square-foot laboratory moved to its new location in December, 2004, and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, Mitchell said. It is the largest and newest state-owned environmental laboratory.

For more information about the DEQ laboratory, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov, call 225-219-9800 or toll free at 1-866-896-5337.

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